

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the continued indication that claims 7, 9, 13, 15, 20, 22 and 26 are allowed.

As another initial matter, the Examiner has indicated some of the previously submitted references as being considered on a form PTO-1449 attached to the Office Action of October 13, 2005. However, the Examiner has crossed out reference JP 7-227398 as not being considered. The IDS of January 5, 2004 states that the relevancy of such reference is described in the specification. Thus, no translation is required since such discussion in the specification serves as a concise explanation of the reference's relevancy in the English language (which could be separate or part of the specification) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)(i)). Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the IDS of January 5, 2004 fully complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and request that the Examiner re-issue the form PTO-1449 with an indication that reference JP 7-227398 has been considered.

In the Official Action, the Examiner again rejects claims 1-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 16-19, 21, 23-25 and 27-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0027313 to Shimmura et al., (hereinafter "Shimmura") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,957,423 to Kronner (hereinafter "Kronner").

In response, claims 1-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 16-19, 21, 23-25 and 27-35 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 16-19, 21, 23-25 and 27-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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